

Simple, Compound, Complex & Compound-Complex Sentences Worksheet

44 practice sentences across 4 exercises — identify sentence types, then combine simple sentences into compound, complex, and compound-complex ones. Full answer key included at the end of this worksheet.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exercise 1 — Identify the Sentence Type

Label each sentence as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex. For compound sentences, note both main clauses; for complex and compound-complex sentences, note the main clause and the subordinate clause. Write your answer on the line below each sentence.

01. The bakery closes at six on weekdays.

02. I finished the marathon, but my knees are still recovering.

03. When the power went out, we lit candles and played cards.

04. She studies every night after work, and she still finds time to volunteer, even though her schedule is packed.

05. Our flight leaves at dawn.

06. He forgot his umbrella, so he waited under the awning until the rain stopped.

07. Although the recipe called for butter, I substituted olive oil.

08. The dog barked at the mail carrier.

09. My cousin moved to Portland last spring, and she still hasn't found an apartment she likes.

10. Since the printer ran out of toner, I emailed the file instead, but my professor never opened it.

11. The bakery down the street closed early because the owner's daughter had a school recital.

Exercise 2 — Combine Sentences into Compound Sentences

Join each pair using a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, so, yet), a semicolon, or a semicolon plus a conjunctive adverb (however, meanwhile, instead, therefore).

01. The lecture ran long. Half the class left early.

02. We could order pizza. We could cook something at home.

03. The internet went down. Nobody could finish the assignment.

04. He wasn't thrilled with the venue. He agreed to book it anyway.

05. My sister offered to drive. I still took the train.

06. The store was closing in ten minutes. We grabbed what we needed and left.

07. The interview went well. I still haven't heard back.

08. You can email the form today. You can drop it off tomorrow.

09. The coffee shop was packed. We found a table near the back.

10. Her flight got delayed twice. She still made it to the wedding on time.

11. The printer jammed for the third time. I gave up and wrote it by hand.

Exercise 3 — Combine Sentences into Complex Sentences

Turn each pair into one sentence using a subordinating conjunction (because, although, since, when, while, if, unless) or a correlative pair (either...or, not only...but also).

01. The roads were icy. We drove slowly.

02. She loves hiking. She goes out every weekend.

03. The store was out of milk. I bought oat milk instead.

04. You don't speak up now. Nobody will know there's a problem.

05. He didn't finish the report. He still got the promotion.

06. I don't recognize the number. I'm not answering the call.

07. The kids finish their homework. They can watch a movie.

08. I missed the deadline. My manager gave me an extension.

09. You want the discount. You need to sign up before Friday.

10. The team lost the first three games. They made the playoffs.

11. I hadn't eaten since breakfast. I skipped lunch to finish the project.

Exercise 4 — Combine Sentences into Compound-Complex Sentences

Combine each set of three sentences into one compound-complex sentence.

01. It started raining. We packed up the picnic. We drove home.

02. He missed his alarm. He rushed to the station. He caught the last train.

03. The internet was slow. I couldn't upload the file. I emailed it instead.

04. She wasn't confident in the answer. She raised her hand anyway. The teacher praised her for trying.

05. The bridge was closed for repairs. We took the long way around. We still made it on time.

06. My phone died. I couldn't check the address. I asked a stranger for directions.

07. The recipe called for saffron. The store didn't have any. I used turmeric instead.

08. He hadn't studied all semester. He passed the final exam. His classmates were stunned.

09. The landlord raised the rent again. We started looking at other places. We hadn't decided anything yet.

10. She turned down the first offer. The company came back with a better one. She accepted immediately.

11. The trail was closed after the storm. We rerouted through the valley. We still reached the summit by noon.

Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Identify the Sentence Type

01. Simple.
02. Compound — main clause: I finished the marathon / main clause: my knees are still recovering.
03. Complex — main clause: we lit candles and played cards / subordinate clause: when the power went out.
04. Compound-complex — main clauses: she studies every night after work / she still finds time to volunteer; subordinate clause: even though her schedule is packed.
05. Simple.
06. Compound — main clause: he forgot his umbrella / main clause: he waited under the awning until the rain stopped.
07. Complex — main clause: I substituted olive oil / subordinate clause: although the recipe called for butter.
08. Simple.
09. Compound — main clause: my cousin moved to Portland last spring / main clause: she still hasn't found an apartment she likes.
10. Compound-complex — main clauses: I emailed the file instead / my professor never opened it; subordinate clause: since the printer ran out of toner.
11. Complex — main clause: the bakery down the street closed early / subordinate clause: because the owner's daughter had a school recital.

Exercise 2 — Combine Sentences into Compound Sentences

01. The lecture ran long, so half the class left early.
02. We could order pizza, or we could cook something at home.
03. The internet went down, and nobody could finish the assignment.
04. He wasn't thrilled with the venue; however, he agreed to book it anyway.
05. My sister offered to drive; instead, I took the train.
06. The store was closing in ten minutes, so we grabbed what we needed and left.
07. The interview went well, but I still haven't heard back.
08. You can email the form today, or you can drop it off tomorrow.
09. The coffee shop was packed, yet we found a table near the back.
10. Her flight got delayed twice; nevertheless, she made it to the wedding on time.
11. The printer jammed for the third time, so I gave up and wrote it by hand.

Exercise 3 — Combine Sentences into Complex Sentences

01. Because the roads were icy, we drove slowly.
02. Since she loves hiking, she goes out every weekend.
03. Since the store was out of milk, I bought oat milk instead.

04. Unless you speak up now, nobody will know there's a problem.
05. Although he didn't finish the report, he still got the promotion.
06. Since I don't recognize the number, I'm not answering the call.
07. Once the kids finish their homework, they can watch a movie.
08. Although I missed the deadline, my manager gave me an extension.
09. If you want the discount, you need to sign up before Friday.
10. Even though the team lost the first three games, they made the playoffs.
11. Even though I hadn't eaten since breakfast, I skipped lunch to finish the project.

Exercise 4 — Combine Sentences into Compound-Complex Sentences

01. Because it started raining, we packed up the picnic, and we drove home.
02. Since he missed his alarm, he rushed to the station, but he caught the last train.
03. Because the internet was slow, I couldn't upload the file, so I emailed it instead.
04. Although she wasn't confident in the answer, she raised her hand anyway, and the teacher praised her for trying.
05. Since the bridge was closed for repairs, we took the long way around, but we still made it on time.
06. Because my phone died, I couldn't check the address, so I asked a stranger for directions.
07. Since the recipe called for saffron and the store didn't have any, I used turmeric instead.
08. Although he hadn't studied all semester, he passed the final exam, and his classmates were stunned.
09. Because the landlord raised the rent again, we started looking at other places, although we hadn't decided anything yet.
10. Although she turned down the first offer, the company came back with a better one, and she accepted immediately.
11. Because the trail was closed after the storm, we rerouted through the valley, but we still reached the summit by noon.

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